

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Magnesite Mine at Tanchon

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1. The magnesite mine at Tanchon (128-54, 40-28), between the villages of Pukto-il and Nandu-il, Tanchon County, South Hamgyong Province, was abandoned from the end of the war until June 1949. At that time it was turned over to the Soviets, who reopened and began to operate it. The staff includes more than ten Soviet soldiers, fifty to sixty Soviet workers, and about five hundred Korean workers. Laborers are considered well off, since they receive adequate food rations.
2. About half the total output of ore is shipped directly to the USSR. The other half is sent to the magnesite processing plant at Osan-dong in Songjin (129-12, 40-40) for refining and then sold in North Korea. The factory, which is government operated, is managed by Hŏ Sŏng-ch'ŏl (許成鉄), aged 42, with Yi Yang-pŏng (李良奉), aged 34, as chief administrator, and Hŏ Ch'ŏl (許鉄) as labor section chief. About twelve Soviet soldiers and civilians are attached to the factory staff.
3. Railroad facilities to the mine are provided from Yohaejin (approximately 129-02, 40-30) railroad station, the point nearest Tanchon.

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